c.) Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 and cancel Claims 4, 6 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

1. (Currently amended): An electrophotographic method ~~in which an~~ employing electrophotographic apparatus comprising a photoreceptor for electrophotography, an image forming light irradiation means and a developing means ~~is used and a step of~~ for forming an image ~~is comprised, the step of forming an image~~ comprising: the steps of (a) forming a static latent image on the photoreceptor by the image forming light irradiation means based on ~~a~~ background exposure ~~method~~ for scan-exposing a non-image portion comprised of a background portion; and (b) visualizing the static latent image by the developing means, wherein

the photoreceptor comprises a supporting member and a photosensitive layer, which supporting member is comprised of aluminum or an aluminum alloy and has a surface being subjected to a surface treatment using water before forming the photosensitive layer and exposing aluminum crystal grain boundaries thereon, and which photosensitive layer is formed on the supporting member, contains amorphous silicon and has a surface exposing thereon crystal grain boundaries corresponding to the aluminum crystal grain boundaries on the supporting member surface, and

an average grain size of crystal grains represented by the crystal grain boundaries exposed on the photosensitive layer surface is larger than a diameter of a spot of a ~~light~~ laser beam for exposure of the image forming light irradiation means which diameter is a spot width equal to $1/e^2$ of a peak intensity; ~~and~~ convex portions corresponding to the crystal grain boundaries exposed on the photosensitive layer surface

are disposed on the photosensitive layer surface, wherein a height of said convex portions is set within the range of not less than 0.05 μm and not more than 0.4 μm and an average diameter of the crystal grain boundaries is from 70 μm to 300 μm.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original): The electrophotographic method according to claim 1, wherein aluminum grains represented by said aluminum crystal grain boundaries exposed on said supporting member have an average grain size larger than said diameter of the spot of said light beam for exposure.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original): The electrophotographic method according to claim 1, wherein said surface treatment using water includes a treatment using a treatment liquid comprising a detergent dissolved into water having a resistivity of not less than 1 MΩ·cm (25°C).

6 -7. (Cancelled).